

Ex-Wife, Kids Eye \$200,000 Jackpot!



WINNER'S SMILE: Ben Hendershott, 41, who lives near Barron lake in Cass county, just east of Niles, seems dazed and happy after winning \$200,000 in Michigan's weekly lottery drawing at Kalamazoo yesterday. Hendershott said he hopes to retire early with his winnings. (AP Wirephoto)

Niles Man Wins State Lottery

Kawneer Worker Plans To Retire At 48

BY STEVE McQUOWN
Staff Writer

NILES — First the good news for Ben Hendershott of rural Niles who won \$200,000 in the state's weekly drawing in Kalamazoo yesterday.

It's no dream. You won the \$20,000 a year for the next 10 years.

Now for the not-so-good news. Your former wife claims you are behind in your support payments and is interested in your sudden wealth.

Hendershott, 41, took the day off from work as a production supervisor at Kawneer in Niles today after cashing in on the top weekly prize at Kalamazoo.

He lives near Barron lake in Cass county's Howard township, about two miles east of Niles.

Hendershott said in a telephone interview that he wants to put the money away for seven years then get out of the daily work routine.

He has worked at the Niles firm for 23 years. He said he hopes the company will establish a 30-year retirement plan in the next seven years allowing him to relax and enjoy his winnings.

But his former wife Bernice, 37, who is employed at an upholstery shop in Edwardsburg, has also expressed interest in how the money is used.

"We've been divorced for about seven years and he is considerably behind in his support payments" of \$156 per month originally ordered by the court, Mrs. Hendershott said today.

She said there is also current litigation pending in Cass circuit court over custody of the three children now living with Mrs. Hendershott in rural Edwardsburg.

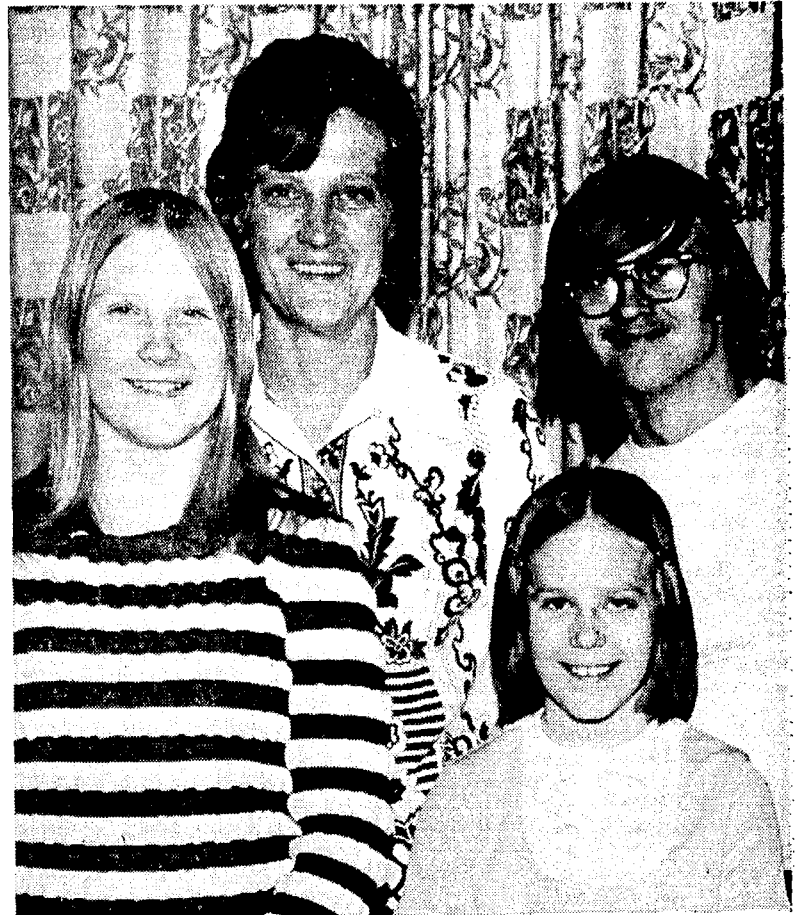
Hendershott said he plans to share his wealth with his children, but not with his former wife. He has not remarried.

James P. Reagan, Cass county's friend of the court, said he has no precedents that would cause an immediate change in court orders for support payments although a petition by Mrs. Hendershott might change the orders.

Other winners in yesterday's lottery drawing were Lillie May Johnson, 47, of Saginaw, and Katie Coleman, 19, of Detroit who each won \$50,000.

Winners of \$25,000 each were the Val Club of Madison Heights; Evelyn McKinley, 72, of Spencerville, Ohio; George Sorenson, 51, of Palatine, Ill.; Jack C. Utech, 34, of Houghton; Walter Gibbs, 60, of Detroit; and Samuel A. Randazzo of Grosse Pointe Park.

The \$10,000 winners were Ralph E. Sanderson, 57, Union Lake; Earen Ison, 24, Detroit; and Merle Dushane, 56, of Monroe.



ALL SMILES: Mrs. Bernice Hendershott, 37, former wife of Niles man who won \$200,000 in Michigan lottery yesterday poses with the couple's three children in her home in rural Edwardsburg. At left is Betty, 15, in front is Brenda, 9, and at right is Ben Jr., 18. She said her husband is behind in child support payments and has expressed interest in money he won. (Staff photo)

LMC And Fired Teachers Do Battle In U.S. Court

BY BILL RUSH
Staff Writer

GRAND RAPIDS — A suit by 42 fired Lake Michigan college teachers seeking reinstatement and back pay went into its second day of trial here today in U.S. District court.

Attorneys for both sides presented opening arguments and four former teachers testified Thursday before Judge Noel P. Fox. With more plaintiff witnesses expected, and as many as 10 wit-

nesses for Lake Michigan college still to take the stand, a third trial day may be needed.

The teachers were fired by LMC in March, 1973 after going out on strike. They then filed suit claiming dismissal was improper and violated their rights under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The teachers' position, as developed in opening argument Thursday by Atty. Bernard Fieger, was:

—Teachers were entitled to hearings before being fired according to provisions of the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act.

—A written contract with LMC expired in August, 1972 but teachers continued to work under an implied contract. This included a security of employment article that full-status teachers could not be dismissed without a hearing. (Full-status generally is two years of teaching or more.)

—Teachers had a right to life, liberty and property under the 14th Amendment. Their property interest was the expectation of continued employment and they were deprived of this when fired without a hearing.

Atty. Robert Claus, LMC labor counsel, in his argument disagreed with the teachers. He said the employment relations act, which prohibits strikes by public employees, provides post-termination hearings and that these would have allowed a speedy resolution of the plaintiffs' rights.

Claus said the extension of the written 1970-72 contract with teachers was on a day-to-day basis. It could have been terminated

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 4)

Danish Airline Crash Kills 37 In Tehran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A Danish airliner carrying 96 persons burst into flames while taking off from Tehran airport today, killing 37 persons and injuring 42, the Iranian government news agency said.

It said 17 were unharmed and were taken to hotels. A spokesman for Sterling Airways in Copenhagen said the plane was carrying Scandinavian, French and West German tourists.

He said the plane was on charter to Denmark's Tjæreborg Rejser Agency, and was on a refueling stop before flying on to Copenhagen from New Delhi.



Enforcement Of 55 MPH Saturday

Enforcement of the 55 mile-an-hour speed limit on Michigan highways starts at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, or a minute after midnight tonight. Enforcement was delayed until March 16 while new limit signs were posted on highways.

Lt. Carl Hulander, commander of the Benton Harbor state

police post, said the new limit actually means an increase for some vehicles. Certain types of trucks and passenger vehicles towing trailers were restricted to 50 miles an hour. The new law provides a uniform 55 to all vehicles.

Milliken Stands By With Gasoline Plan

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Gov. William Milliken has "odd-even" gasoline rationing plans in readiness but says he is optimistic they won't have to be implemented.

Milliken met Thursday with his top energy advisors and later a spokesman said a decision will be made the middle of next week whether to institute any rationing system.

The governor directed the State Energy Office to order the distribution of about seven million gallons of Michigan's set-aside gas supplies next week to counties with the greatest need. He said the counties should report to him on any

other steps necessary to ease possible shortages.

At a meeting, Milliken's top advisors withheld recommending "odd-even" rationing because of what the governor called "encouraging signs."

These included: —A telegram from the Federal Energy Office increasing the state's allocation of gasoline slightly. A spokesman for the governor said some checking will have to be done with federal officials to determine how much the increase will be.

—Glowing reports from advisors that voluntary energy conservation efforts in the state have resulted in significant savings already, possibly 15 per cent monthly.

—Indications by the Federal Energy Office that the gasoline situation is more favorable this month than in February.

The governor also said an anticipated end to the Arab oil embargo and efforts by dealers to spread sales evenly over the month are encouraging signs.

Milliken met with Richard Helmbrecht, director of the state Commerce Department; William Rosenberg, chairman of the Public Service Commission; and William Archer, director of the State Energy Office.

They reviewed various contingency plans, including a limited "off-even" mandatory gasoline sales program under which the days motorists could buy gasoline would be determined by the last digits of their license plates.

The tri-county area of southeastern Michigan is one area where gasoline shortages have been reported. Washtenaw County, which includes Ann Arbor, was added to Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties as reported trouble-spots last month.

These would be the likely spots where "odd-even" rationing would be implemented, if needed, a spokesman for the governor indicated.

A spokesman for Milliken added that shortages toward the end of February were reported

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 4)



Smiles And Tears

There were both smiles and tears for Michigan basketball teams last night. In photo at left, sad South Haven cheerleaders express sorrow of their team's 44-42 loss to Three Rivers in high school Class B regional tournament championship game in Western Michigan University's Read Fieldhouse at Kalamazoo. In photo above, University of Michigan cheerleaders Pam Davis, left, and Debbie Connell display pleasure in seeing their team defeat Notre Dame, 77-68 in the NCAA Mid-east Regional Basketball Championship at Tuscaloosa, Ala. See stories in sports section. (Photos by Tom Renner and AP)

Cabbie Accused Of Being Hatless

BY NICK SMITH
Staff Writer

Willie Johnson, a taxi driver, learned something Monday that he will keep under his hat from now on when he is driving: It's illegal to drive a cab without wearing a cap in St. Joseph.

Johnson, 30, a driver for Twin City Cab Lines, was ticketed for violating the city's taxi ordinance Monday in the 200 block of Wayne street by St. Joseph police. The ticket stated that Johnson, a cab driver, was not wearing a cap.

Thursday in Berrien Fifth District court, Johnson pleaded innocent to the charge and posted \$200 bond. He lives at 346 Summit street, Benton Harbor. He will be tried later in District court on the charge.

The city ordinance states: "Drivers of taxicabs shall be clean in dress and in person and shall wear a distinctive cap at all times while operating the taxicab."

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Tastee Freez to open Sat. March 16th. Two 40c Sundaes for the price of one. 2513 Niles Ave., S.J.

Suburbs Say Sewer Pipeline Bill 'Too High'

BY BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

The Lake Michigan Shoreline Water and Sewage Treatment authority last night rejected the contractor's \$2.68 million final price tag for Hickory creek sewer interceptor south of St. Joseph.

The price by Yerington & Harris, Inc., of Benton Harbor, is far too high, said St. Joseph township Supervisor Orval Benson. Authority members voted unanimously to turn it down.

The price tag, apparently driven up by the need for extra piling and pile cap to support the line through swampy ground, next goes to the Berrien county board of public works (BPW). Authority recommendations are not binding on the BPW.

Engineer Joseph D. Craigmile presented the contractor's final tabulation for the virtually-complete sewer line with the engineers' recommendation.

"This is \$515,000 more than we ever agreed to pay," Benson said.

Final price for the seven-mile-long sewer line, begun in 1969, was contained in Change Order No. 19 presented to the authority last night for approval at St. Joseph township hall.

The change order states an original contract price of \$1,565,726, sets out \$670,680 in change order 1 through 18, and fixes a total amount then of \$2,237,406. Change Order 19 itself contained another \$444,339 in contractor labor and material, including \$332,082 for piling and pile cap to support sewer pipe in swampy ground along Hickory creek.

Benson noted the original estimated contract price of \$1.5 million and a negotiated extra estimated at \$661,300 in saying Change Order 19 set the final price too high.

Chairman Robert DeVries last night asked Craigmile why his firm's estimates of piling and cap fell far short of those in the final price tag.

"I'm just like you," Craigmile said in part. "I rely on the opinion of soil experts."

The experts didn't agree on how much piling would be needed, so the engineer and contractor tried a limited amount and found it wouldn't work, he said.

Yerington & Harris, one of two bidders and the low bid, won the job in 1969 with a contract price of \$1.5 million based on fixed prices for estimated amounts of labor and materials. The contractor began work, walked off the job in 1971, and returned to work 10 months later for an estimated extra \$661,300 for different construction materials and methods.

That made the contractor's price about \$2.2 million. But the final price last night, \$2.68 million, was the result of change orders along the way plus a third of a million dollars for piling and pile cap.

(After the contractor walked off the job, the BPW offered the remaining 6 miles of sewer line in August, 1971, and received construction bids of \$3.9 to \$4.4 million. The BPW resumed negotiations with the contractor and the firm eventually returned to work.)

The final price tag, Craigmile reported, was the result of negotiation between engineer and contractor, plus field measurements of materials used and a check of billing and payment records.

The final price tag is a prelude to BPW application for final state-federal inspection and grants, he said.

The engineers' certificate shows the contractor has already been paid \$2,406,812, less any amounts not paid for lack of cash at the BPW or its retention of 10 per cent pending completion of the sewer line.

The interceptor sewer runs from south St. Joseph to the Village of Stevensville over 7 miles of Hickory creek, serving the village and townships of St. Joseph and Lincoln.

Craigmile also reported that Sanitary Engineer Fred Eyer of the Department of Natural Resources will be here March 26 to inspect the sewer line and meet the following day with the BPW at the courthouse, St. Joseph.

BUS OWNER FAVORS DIAL-A-RIDE



JOSEPH R. MAMMINA
Favors Dial-A-Ride

Mammina Would Like To Sell To System, Then Run It

By SCOTT WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

The owner of the lone bus company in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph says he is in favor of the Twin Cities getting the proposed Dial-A-Ride (DART) bus system.

"I'm all for DART," said Joseph R. Mammina, owner of Twin Cities Motor Transit Co., "but before it comes in something should be done with Twin Cities Motor Transit."

The Twin Cities have already been selected as a site for the new DART system, which picks up passengers at their door and

takes them to their destination for a 50 cent charge.

The Benton Harbor city commission has stated it is in favor of DART, while the St. Joseph city commission has taken no formal stand.

Mammina said he would like to have DART buy his bus company, and he would be willing to run the DART system.

"As it stands now, I'd like to see DART buy me out," Mammina stated. "Then there wouldn't be any competition. I can't compete with DART."

DART would force him to close if he was not compensated for his bus line, he said.

"I'm going to go broke if DART comes in. I'd have to close because I couldn't meet the expenses involved," Mammina said.

"If somebody will pick you up at your door, you're not going to walk to a bus stop."

Mammina charges a fare of 60 cents to ride each route, plus another 15 cents if a passenger transfers from one route to another. DART says it will charge 50 cents for anywhere in the Twin Cities.

Mammina said he would like to run the DART system here if arrangements could be made for his bus line to be purchased, with the option that he could buy it back if the DART system should fail.

He said, however, that he hasn't talked to anyone about the purchase of his bus line as "it's up to them to make the first move."

Mammina owns 14 buses, which he said are valued at about \$56,000, and employs 11 persons. Until recently, the future looked dim.

"Financially the city bus line has not been producing enough revenue," he said, so money has been filtered from his charter bus service to help support the city bus line.

But Mammina said the city bus line has experienced an upsurge in riders recently, and attributes it to the gasoline

shortage. "I think (the city bus line) will show a profit by the end of the fiscal year," Mammina stated.

He said he expects to take in about \$45,000, with operating costs figured at about \$40,000. He also noted revenues have increased because of a 10 cent fare increase which took effect last month.

Mammina's buses follow a number of routes connecting Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, and additional routes to parts of Benton township, St. Joseph township, and Fairplain Plaza.

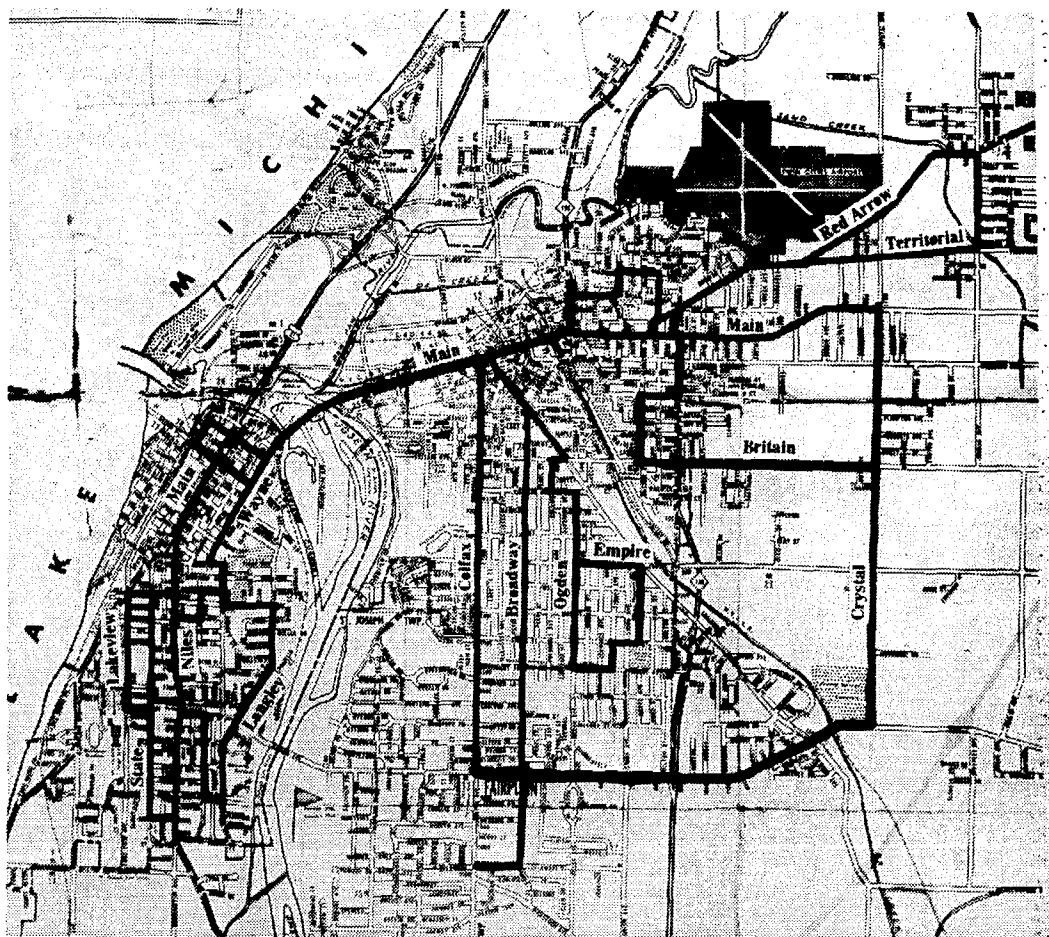
One route between the cities from 7:20 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Another route goes from downtown Benton Harbor to the Plaza from 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. once an hour, with buses leaving Benton Harbor on the hour.

An additional route leaves downtown Benton Harbor on the half-hour from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for Benton Heights.

A fourth route covers the area from downtown Benton Harbor to Colfax and Napier, then to the Benton Harbor post office every two hours, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

One route goes from the Four Corners to the Plaza via Berrien Homes and the social services office on the hour.



TWIN CITIES BUS ROUTES: Bus routes of Twin Cities Motor Transit are outlined in black on map of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph. Buses operate on

number of routes, with fare of 60 cents on each route. An additional 15 cent charge is assessed for passengers transferring from one route to another.

State Examiner Ponders New Bank For SJ

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A hearing examiner for the Michigan Financial Institutions Bureau says it should be six to eight weeks before he makes a recommendation on an application to put a new bank in St. Joseph.

Examiner Larry Eskilsen is presiding over hearings in which Old Kent Bank and Trust Corp., headquartered in Grand Rapids, is trying to establish the Old Kent Bank of St. Joseph.

The application is being opposed by area banks. Attorney Wilbur Brucker of Detroit, who represents four other area banks, said in an interview Thursday that there are "very competitive banks in the area."

Bringing in a new bank, especially one by such a large holding company, he said, would cause "destructive competition."

Attorney Joseph Neath of Grand Rapids, who represents Old Kent, however, said his bank would not destroy any other bank.

Brucker represents the only bank now in St. Joseph, Peoples State Bank, as well as three other area banks — the Inner City Bank of Benton Harbor, the

Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Benton Harbor, which has an estimated 17,000 population, and St. Joseph, with 11,000, have lost a total of 3,000 population since 1970. He also said unemployment in the Benton Harbor area is about 18 per cent.

Brucker said Benton Harbor, which has an estimated 17,000 population, and St. Joseph, with 11,000, have lost a total of 3,000 population since 1970. He also said unemployment in the Benton Harbor area is about 18 per cent.

Brucker said a large company coming into the area could afford to take losses. Neath, however, said his bank would not go into the area unless it thought it could make money.

While the two neighboring cities may have lost population, Neath said the entire area has not. He said Old Kent considers southwestern Lower Michigan an area of growth.

Neath also said that a lot of banking business has been taken elsewhere from the area. He said that after Old Kent filed its original application, the banks in the area became more aggressive in seeking business.

Grass Fire Quelled

Benton township firemen Thursday afternoon extinguished a grass fire at 1356 Pipestone road. Firemen said the grass was ignited by trash burning nearby.

BY SCOTT WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

A proposed shopping mall in Benton township got the go-ahead from Benton township planners last night.

The proposal must still be approved by the township board of trustees, but one of the developers said if all goes well the first stores could open in late 1975 or early 1976.

Approved was a request by the Meyer C. Weiner Co. of Illinois to rezone some 200 acres of a 300-acre tract from residential to commercial. The property is located between Pipestone road, I-94, Napier avenue, and Fairplain Plaza.

The remaining portion of land is already zoned commercial. Robert Nametz, chairman of the land use committee, said the plans submitted for the mall by the developers were "sound" in their planning of roads, drains, and the shopping mall itself.

Benjamin H. Rabin, representing the Weiner Co., said plans for the mall call for between 500,000 and 600,000 square feet enclosed under the roof. He said malls of the type planned usually have two major store on each end with other

types of stores in the middle of the mall.

Richard E. Bailey, of the Oak Brook, Ill., architectural firm of Jensen & Jensen, called the location "the best site I've ever seen."

An audience of more than 40 persons jammed the planning commission chambers for the public hearing.

Rabin declined to comment how much the mall would cost, and after the meeting also declined to state the price his company will pay the V-M Corp., which now owns the land.

Bailey said many malls constructed now are built in split-level fashion, and "the contour of this land allows for this." He said the mall itself is the "first and foremost" goal, with additional buildings constructed later.

He noted businesses such as restaurants, theaters, banks, offices, motels, and housing are "attracted to a shopping center of this size."

He also said the developers would like to build access roads around the mall, build a Napier extension that would run straight into the mall area, and perhaps a road from M-139 to the mall.

The retail complex would be known as Berrien Mall. It is the second shopping center to be proposed in the Twin City area in recent months. The other is proposed for St. Joseph township, near I-94 and Niles road interchange.

Questions from the audience were principally concerned with how Berrien mall would affect drainage in surrounding areas and taxes.

Bailey said a drainage system will be installed, possibly with run-off water going into Ox creek. He also said steps would be taken to insure that drainage for surrounding properties would not worsen, and said it could become better.

Planning Commission Chairman James Benson told the audience the mall would "have no bearing on your taxes." Rabin noted, however, that a

development of the type proposed usually generates four times more taxes than what it uses in police and fire protection and other services.

Commented Bailey on the rezoning: "We still have a long way to go — this (hearing) is to free-up the site." Rabin did not say when construction would start if the request is approved, but said the mall could open in late 1975, and added "construction starts at least a year ahead of that."

In other business, the commission referred to committee a request by Atty. Carl R. Burdick to rezone property at Napier and Union street, owned by H. Paul and Marjorie Florin, from residential to commercial.

Leath-Newland Furniture Co. wants to buy the land as a new location for its store which is presently in downtown Benton

Harbor.

Later in the meeting, Benson said he didn't feel there is any need for further commercial zoning along Napier from M-139 to Colfax avenue. "Any rezoning (in that area) should be studied carefully," he said.

Planners also tabled a request from Ewald Kissinger, of 1180 Rocky Cap road, to rezone property at 1180 North Shore drive from single family to multiple. Planners said plans for apartments on the property were submitted too late for study.



APPOINTED: Dale O. Jeffers, St. Joseph, has been appointed chairman of a committee which will review the programs and staff services of Hemophilia of Michigan which is a member agency of United Way of Michigan. The review will be done prior to UWM's annual budget conference to be held April 30, May 1 at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University.



SUPPLY FIRM CHANGES HANDS: Alan Scowcroft (right) is welcomed as new owner of Manufacturers Rubber Supply, Inc., 815 Lester, St. Joseph, by three sales representatives, (from left) Mike Haas, David Krieger and Al Beezley. Announcement of the sale was made by Charles A. Jewell, who with two partners, started Manufacturers Rubber Supply in 1953 and became sole owner in 1960. Jewell will remain as a consultant. Scowcroft formerly was president of H. Scowcroft Co. and later manager of Scowcroft Division, Weil McLain Co. of Benton Harbor. He said Manufacturers Rubber Supply will retain same staff of 14 and serving area industry with rubber, plastics, hose fittings and associated products. Headquarters building covers 20,000 square feet. An 8,000 square-foot addition was erected in 1972. (Staff Photo)

Plan Would Cut Size Of BH Commission

The Benton Harbor city charter commission last night instructed its attorney to draft a charter provision that would reduce the number of city commissioners from nine to seven.

The commission's action followed a vote last week to include a strong mayor form of government in a proposed charter for submission to the voters.

Under the new plan, there would be seven city commis-

sioners, plus the mayor. There are now eight commissioners and the mayor.

The mayor now has a vote, just like a regular commissioner. Under a new form that will be drafted by Atty. David Morris, the mayor apparently would have no vote but could have veto power.

BH Board Meets Monday

Benton Harbor board of education will hold a special meeting Monday to act on re-employment of teachers and administrators for 1974-75 school year.

The meeting is for routine conformance with the state tenure act which requires that teachers must receive 60 days notice and administrators 90 days if they are not going to be re-employed. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in Bierman library at senior high.

New Schedule Set For Polio Vaccinations

Program To Begin Monday In Van Buren Schools

By GARRETT DeGRAFF
Paw Paw Bureau

PAW PAW — A revised schedule for a free polio vaccination program to be held in Van Buren county schools was announced by the county health department yesterday.

Under the new schedule, the program will begin Monday, March 18, in South Haven schools and end Thursday, March 28, in Gobles.

The program was originally set for March 13-22.

The health department recommends that all children between ages 1 and 18 have at least three doses of oral vaccine against polio for adequate protection.

Vaccinations against measles and rubella (German measles) will also be available, according to the department.

The complete schedule of the vaccination program follows:

Monday, March 18 — South Haven L. C. Mohr high school, 9 a.m.; South Haven Central school, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19 — South Haven Lincoln school, 9 a.m.; Covert high school, 1 p.m.; Covert elementary, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20 — Bangor high school, 8 a.m.; Bangor junior high, 10 a.m.; Bangor elementary, 12:30 p.m.; Bangor middle school, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 21 — Hartford south elementary, 8:30 a.m.; Hartford north elementary, 9:45 a.m.; Hartford high school, 11 a.m.; Hartford middle school, 1 p.m.

Friday, March 22 — Lawrence elementary, 8:45 a.m.; Lawrence high school, 10 a.m.; Decatur lower elementary, 1 p.m.; Decatur high school, 2 p.m.

Monday, March 25 — Lawton middle school, 8:30 a.m.; Lawton elementary, 9:15 a.m.; Lawton high school, 10:30 a.m.; Mattawan elementary, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26 — Decatur upper elementary, 9 a.m.; Mattawan middle school, 1 p.m.; Mattawan high school, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27 — Paw Paw Michigan avenue, 8 a.m.; Paw Paw Black River, 9 a.m.; Paw Paw Cedar street, 1 p.m.; Paw Paw Michigan avenue (5 and 6), 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 28 — Bloomingdale elementary, 9 a.m.; Bloomingdale high school, 10:30 a.m.; Gobles high school, 1 p.m.

The health department began preparation for the polio vaccination program after a survey of county children indicated on 55 percent were adequately protected against the disease.



CONDEMNED CASS DUMP: This is photo of Cass county landfill site on Anderson road in Milton township that Cass county board Tuesday ordered

to be closed in 10 days. Area residents told board of alleged odors, rat infestation and other complaints against Indiana firm operating landfill. (Norma

Lerner photo)

Fire Ruins Niles Salvage Yard Building

NILES — Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a large building housing Ham the Wrecker salvage company, US-31 South in Niles township early this morning.

Firemen and equipment from at least nine fire departments in Michigan and Indiana were pressed into service in a successful fight to confine the fire to the cement block and metal building. Sparks from the blaze during the height of the fire were blown toward gasoline storage tanks about a quarter of a mile away, touching off fears among area residents of a possible major catastrophe.

Damage to the firm was estimated by firemen in the tens of thousands of dollars.

The blaze reported at 12:15 a.m. had a good start before firemen arrived. Flames, fanned by an easterly wind, spread through the building, feeding on paneling and other building materials which packed the structure. Repeated explosions were heard as containers of propane gas or other flammable liquids blew up from the intense heat inside.

The building measuring about 75 by 225 feet, had a metal roof supported by laminated wooden beams from the old Notre Dame athletic center.

All that was left of the structure after the fire was brought under control was the rear portion of the roof and the outside shell of concrete blocks.

Firemen said the blaze started in the front of the building and was discovered by a passing motorist.

During the height of the blaze, burning embers were blown across the night sky, leaving trails of sparks as they drifted eastward.

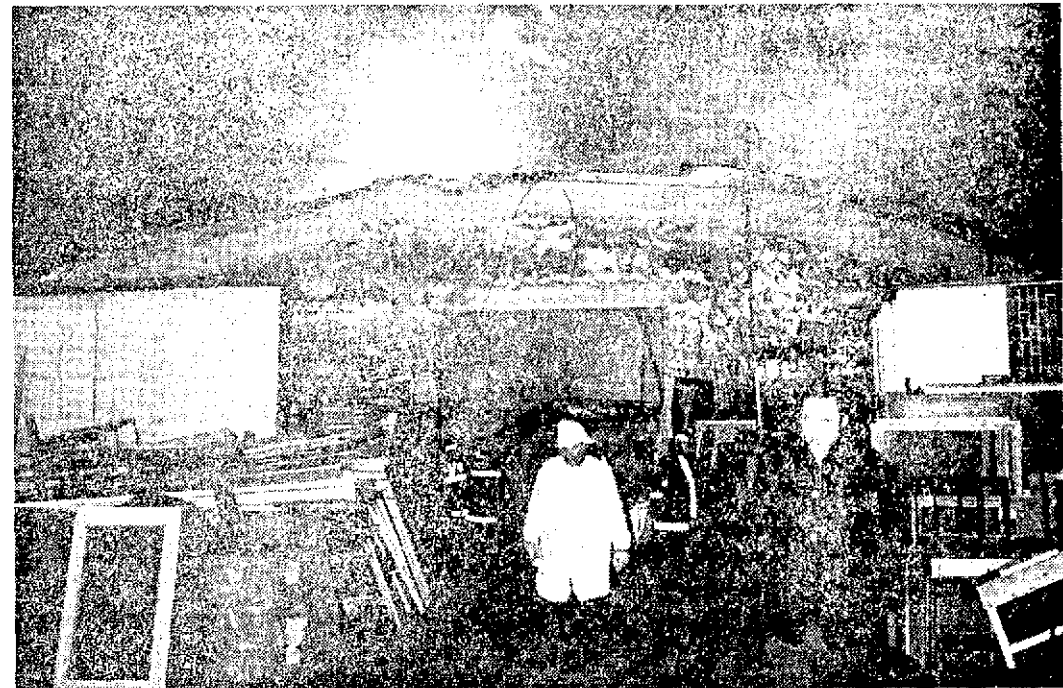
Anxious residents located between the burning building and large gasoline storage tanks in "Tank Town", less than a quarter mile to the west, kept telephones at police stations busy as they

checked repeatedly on progress of the fire. Burning embers from the fire were blown in the direction of the storage tanks.

Piles of scrap and surplus materials stored in a large area around the building were not damaged by the blaze, according to firemen.

Units responding to the alarm included Niles township, Bertrand township, Edwardsburg, Howard township, and Morris Farms in Michigan, and the townships of Clay, German, Harris and Penn in Indiana.

Firemen were still at the scene at daybreak hosing down the still smoldering ruins.



NILES FIRM DESTROYED: Fire destroyed Ham the Wrecker salvage company, US-31 South in Niles township, early this morning. Flames from blaze

could be seen for several miles as firemen and equipment from at least nine departments were pressed into service. (Staff photo)

South Haven To Shun Suit Against I&M

By TOM RENNER
South Haven Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven will not join several other Michigan and Indiana communities who purchase wholesale electricity from the Indiana & Michigan Electric company in filing a federal anti-trust suit against the firm.

The South Haven board of public works, meeting in special session last night, voted not to pursue the suit upon recom-

mendation of City Atty. William Verdonk.

Wyatt Mick, attorney for City of Mishawaka, Ind., invited South Haven to join his community and 15 other Michigan and Indiana towns in the suit, alleging that I & M is systematically trying to put public utilities out of business.

Verdonk said South Haven should wait on considering the anti-trust suit until a rate increase hearing before the Federal Power commission is settled.

Galien Announces Top Two Scholars

GALIEN — Robert Green and Paula Howard, both 18, have been selected as the top two scholars of graduating Galien high school seniors.

Car Parts Worth \$714 Are Stolen

BUCHANAN — Engine and automotive parts worth an estimated \$714 were reported stolen from a garage belonging to William Miller on Victory street, Buchanan police said today.

Police said the reported theft apparently occurred late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

Among items taken, police related, were a four-speed transmission, a shifter, a point system, three-barrel carburetor and a tachometer.

School officials said Green, the class valedictorian, accumulated a grade-point-average of 3.88 and Miss Howard, the salutatorian, an average of 3.84 over four years of high school scholastic work.

A grade-point-average of four is maximum.

Green, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Green of Gardiner road in Galien, plans to attend Michigan State university and major in computer engineering.

Miss Howard, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Howard of Karen drive in Galien, plans to attend Ferris state college and major in medical records administration.

Green participated in football, was a member of the National Honor Society and was president of the student council in his junior year.

Miss Howard was active in band, was junior class president and is currently president of the National Honor Society among other activities.



ROBERT GREEN
Valedictorian



PAULA HOWARD
Salutatorian

Gasoline Picture Improves

DETROIT (AP) — An Automobile Club of Michigan survey shows the availability of gasoline will be better this weekend than it was a week ago.

"Apparently additional gasoline supplies earmarked for Michigan this month by the federal government have had an impact," said Joseph Ratke, Auto Club touring manager.

The Auto Club's "fuel gauge" survey of 300 service stations on the state's main highways showed 42 per cent would be operating Sunday, compared to 37 per cent last Sunday.

"Our survey further showed that only three per cent of highway stations are closed due to no gas," Ratke said, "which is about the same percentage as last week."

Ratke said that while motorists would continue to find fuel supplies below normal in most southern Michigan urban centers, gasoline remained abundant in most areas north of a line from Bay City to Ludington.

Vandals Ruin Scout Project

DETROIT (AP) — The good deeds of a Boy Scout troop were undone when vandals ripped up more than 12 tons of clothing and smashed boxes of toys being readied for distribution to eastern Michigan Indians.

Edward Oprinski said Boy Scouts from Troop 586 had been sorting through 30 tons of shredded clothing and broken toys for the past week salvaging the usable items for distribution to Ottawa Indians.

South Haven Lions Club Will Hold Smorgasbord March 30 At Mai Kai

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven Lions club will sponsor its 14th annual community smorgasbord Saturday, March 30 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Fidelman's Mai Kai, Phoenix road.

The smorgasbord is the major fund raising event of the club with proceeds used to support local persons in need of glasses and other visual aids as well as state programs of the Lions including the Welcome Home for the Blind in Grand Rapids and Leader Dogs

for the Blind in Rochester.

Other local projects supported by the Lions include a student exchange program, financial backing of the South Haven high school choir for its upcoming trip to Vienna, Austria and a proposed local park project along the Black river.

General chairman of the event is Henry Green. Tickets are available from Lions members and will be sold at the door.

Civil War Soldier's Letter Arrives After 110-Year Journey

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (AP) — A letter mailed 110 years ago from a Civil War soldier to a Michigan acquaintance has turned up in this suburb at a senior citizens home.

Royal Oak Postmaster Walter T. Ashton could give no explanation for the delayed delivery, except to theorize it had fallen into a building crevice somewhere and was found when the structure was demolished and then dropped in a mailbox.

The letter was from Pvt. Horace H. Prindle of Troy, Mich., who lay wounded in a Nashville, Tenn., hospital after the 1863 battle of Lookout Valley. It was dated Nov. 14, 1863.

The letter was addressed to a Miss Emeline Marvin in nearby Birmingham, Mich., but it arrived at the American House senior citizens home in this Detroit suburb.

Teresa Collins, administrator of the home, said she had "absolutely no explanation" as to how the letter arrived.

"We once had a resident here whose last name was the same as Emeline's," she said, "but how some postmaster would know that..."

The envelope bore additions of street addresses and the name of the senior citizens home. The notations appeared to be from three separate sources but no one seems to know how they got there.

Alice Dallinger, chief of the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library, authenticated the letter.

Mrs. Dallinger said other records show Pvt. Prindle was mustered out of the 22nd Michigan Infantry in 1864 in Detroit. "Friend Emeline," Prindle began, "I now sit down to answer your kind letter, which was written Sept. 16, 1863. It came in due time, I was much pleased to hear from you and to hear that you was well..."

Prindle compared the death rate in his hospital — six per day — to that in Detroit, which was suffering through an influenza epidemic, and told her of the war.

"You have all learned about the great battle of Chickamauga," he wrote. "We had a very large battle week ago today in the Lookout Valley. We drove the rebels some 6 miles and taken a thousand barrels of corn which helped our forces a good deal, and our forces have got both sides of the river."



MYSTERY LETTER: Teresa Collins, administrator of a Troy senior citizens home, holds letter mailed 110 years ago by Civil War soldier Pvt. Horace H. Prindle of Troy, who lay wounded in a Nashville, Tenn., hospital.

Lookout Valley was a turn-about from Chickamauga, where rebel Gen. Braxton Bragg's 70,000 troops defeated a force of 53,000 under Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans.

Prindle wrote that the rebel camp could still be seen from the union position after Lookout Valley, and noted the Confederates still believed they could take Chattanooga.

"...But I don't think they will," he wrote, "for I think that old Bragg has lost his last brag."

"Give my love to all," Prindle closed fondly, "and keep a good share for yourself."